

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least within the substrate, so as to form a modified region due to multiphon absorption at least within the substrate, and causing the modified region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least within the substrate under a condition with a peak power density of at least  $1 \times 10^8$  (W/cm<sup>2</sup>) at the light-converging point and a pulse width of 1  $\mu$ s or less, so as to form a modified region including a crack region at least within the substrate, and causing the modified region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least within the substrate under a condition with a peak power density of at least  $1 \times 10^8$  (W/cm<sup>2</sup>) at the light-converging point and a pulse width of 1  $\mu$ s or less, so as to form a modified region including a molten processed region at least within the substrate, and causing the modified region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least within the substrate under a condition with a peak power density of at least  $1 \times 10^8$  (W/cm<sup>2</sup>) at the light-converging point and a pulse width of 1 ns or less, so as to form a modified region including a refractive index change region which is a region with a changed refractive index at least within the substrate, and causing the modified region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least

within the substrate, so as to form a modified region at least within the substrate, and causing the modified region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point within the substrate, irradiating the object with laser light while positioning a light-converging point within the laminate part, so as to form respective modified regions to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least within the substrate, so as to form a modified region along a line along which the object should be cut at least within the substrate, thereby cutting the object.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to one of claims 18-20, wherein the modified region includes at least one of a crack region which is a region where a crack is generated within the substrate, a molten processed region which is a region

subjected to melting within the substrate, and a refractive index change region which is a region with a changed refractive index within the substrate.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to one of claims 14-20, wherein the laser light irradiating the substrate while positioning the light-converging point therewithin irradiates the substrate from the rear face thereof.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the steps of:  
irradiating a substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point within the substrate, so as to form a modified region due to multiphoton absorption within the substrate, and causing the modified region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the substrate; and

providing a front face of the substrate with a laminate part after the step of forming the starting point region for cutting.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate which is made of a semiconductor material and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least with the substrate under a condition with a peak power density of at least  $1 \times 10^8$  (W/cm<sup>2</sup>) at the light-converging point and a pulse width of 1  $\mu$ s or less, so as to form a modified region at least within the substrate, and causing the modified

region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate which is made of a piezoelectric material and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least within the substrate under a condition with a peak power density of at least  $1 \times 10^8$  (W/cm<sup>2</sup>) at the light-converging point and a pulse width of 1  $\mu$ s or less, so as to form a modified region at least within the substrate, and causing the modified region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method comprising the step of irradiating an object to be processed comprising a substrate which is made of a semiconductor material and a laminate part disposed on a front face of the substrate with laser light while positioning a light-converging point at least within the substrate, so as to form a molten processed region at least within the substrate, and causing the molten processed region to form a starting point region for cutting along a line along which the object should be cut in the object inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the object.

Claim 27 (New): A laser processing method according to one of claims 14 to 19, wherein the modified region is formed within the substrate such that the modified region shifts

from the center position of the object in the thickness direction toward a rear face of the substrate.

Claim 28 (New): A laser processing method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of applying stress to the object from the laminate part side after the step of forming the starting point region for cutting, so as to cut the object along the line along which the object should be cut.

Claim 29 (New): A laser processing method according to one of claims 14 to 19, wherein the modified region is formed within the substrate such that the modified region shifts from the center position of the object in the thickness direction toward the front face of the substrate.

Claim 30 (New): A laser processing method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of applying stress to the object from the opposite side of the laminate part after the step of forming the starting point region for cutting, so as to cut the object along the line along which the object should be cut.

Claim 31 (New): A laser processing method according to claim 19, wherein the substrate and the laminate part are a plurality of substrates formed while abutting.

Claim 32 (New): A laser processing method according to claim 19, wherein the substrate and the laminate part are a plurality of substrates attached to each other while forming a gap therebetween.

Claim 33 (New): A laser processing method according to claim 19, wherein the modified regions formed within the substrate and the laminate part overlap with each other along the line along which the object should be cut, when viewed from the thickness direction of the object.

Claim 34 (New): A laser processing method according to one of claims 14 to 20, wherein the object comprises the substrate and the laminate part, the laminate part includes a first laminate part which is an oxide film disposed on the front face of the substrate and a second laminate part disposed on a front face of the first laminate part.

Claim 35 (New): A laser processing method according to one of claims 14 to 20, wherein the object comprises the substrate which is a glass substrate and the laminate part which is a glass substrate.

Claim 36 (New): A laser processing method according to one of claims 14 to 20, wherein the object comprises the substrate and the laminate part which is a laminated functional film.

Claim 37 (New): A laser processing method according to one of claims 14 to 19, further comprising the step of cutting the object along the line from the starting point region for cutting.

Claim 38 (New): A laser processing method according to one of claims 24 to 26, further comprising the step of cutting the object along the line from the starting point region for cutting.

Claim 39 (New): A laser processing method comprising the steps of:  
providing a front face of a substrate with a laminate part, the substrate having a starting point region for cutting formed within the substrate along a line along which the substrate should be cut in the substrate, the starting point region for cutting formed by a modified region formed at a position of a light-converging point in irradiation of laser light.

Claim 40 (New): A laser processing method according to claim 23 or 39, further comprising the step of cutting the substrate along the line from the starting point region for cutting.